

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons which follow.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Amendments have been made to claims 1, 7, and 13 in order to correct minor antecedence errors. These amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated over the reference Perkowski. This rejection of the claims is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Referring to claim 1, a method for tracking a shipment of goods in a network-based supply chain management framework is claimed. Specific limiting steps are set forth including "sending a distributor an order for goods from a supply chain participant utilizing the network." Also included is the step of "tracking the goods utilizing a bar code." Also included is the step of storing results of the tracking in a database." Also included is the step of allowing the supply chain participant to access the results of the tracking utilizing a network with the TCP/IP protocol." A plurality of these steps are completely missing from Perkowski.

Referring in more detail to Perkowski, this patent is directed to solving the problem of providing product-related information to consumers both prior to and after the purchase of the product. See column 2, lines 23-26 and column 4, lines 38-42 and 57-64 of the patent. This problem is solved by, among other things, by registering consumer products with the patented system and storing such product-related information on an Internet-based product information database using a Universal Product Number (UPC) as the search access term. See column 5, lines 1-34. A plurality of URL's relating to items of product information are symbolically linked to a given UPC number in a relational database and a menu of such URL's is displayed by a browser to the consumer. See column 5, lines 53-58 and column 6, lines 51-59. The product-related information is accessed by scanning a bar code on the registered consumer product or literature to thereby enter the UPC into the system. See column 6, lines 12-

19. This may be accomplished, in one embodiment, by providing kiosks with bar code readers for reading UPC numbers on consumer products. See column 7, lines 26-34.

A transportation and logistics information subsystem 7 is disclosed at column 11, line 12, for providing to retailers information about when ordered products will be delivered to retailer stores. But there is no enabling disclosure of any details. In particular, there is no disclosure of "sending a distributor an order for goods..utilizing the network" and more importantly, there is no disclosure of "tracking the goods utilizing a bar code." The only disclosure in Perkowski relating to bar codes pertains to obtaining access to product-related information. See the references in Perkowski above as well as column 17, lines 39-67. There is no disclosure of tracking electronically ordered goods throughout a supply system by means of a bar code.

Regarding claim 5, there is no disclosure of allowing a supply chain participant access only after its identity is verified. The citation by the examiner in Perkowski of column 19, lines 46-54 pertains to using security procedures before allowing a systems administrator to change URL linking of related products. See column 19, lines 39-52. There is no suggestion of preventing access to a regular supply chain participant using identity verification.

Accordingly, a prima facie case has not been made and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Applicant would like to set up a telephone conference with the examiner when this application is again up for consideration.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and withdrawal thereof, and an early passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date February 26, 2002

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

Marked up rewritten claims:

1. (Amended) A method for tracking [the] a shipment of goods in a network-based supply chain management framework utilizing barcodes, comprising:
 - a) sending a distributor an order for goods from a supply chain participant utilizing a network;
 - b) tracking the goods utilizing a bar code;
 - c) storing results of the tracking in a database; and
 - d) allowing the supply chain participant to access the results of the tracking utilizing a network with TCP/IP protocol.

7. (Amended) A system for tracking [the] a shipment of goods in a network-based supply chain management framework utilizing barcodes, comprising:
 - a) logic for sending a distributor an order for goods from a supply chain participant utilizing a network;
 - b) logic for tracking the goods utilizing a bar code;
 - c) logic for storing results of the tracking in a database; and
 - d) logic for allowing the supply chain participant to access the results of the tracking utilizing a network with TCP/IP protocol.

13. (Amended) A computer program product for tracking [the] a shipment of goods in a network-based supply chain management framework utilizing barcodes, comprising:

- a) computer code for sending a distributor an order for goods from a supply chain participant utilizing a network;
- b) computer code for tracking the goods utilizing a bar code;
- c) computer code for storing results of the tracking in a database; and
- d) computer code for allowing the supply chain participant to access the results of the tracking utilizing a network with TCP/IP protocol.